

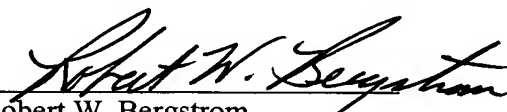
REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. In the Office Action dated March 23, 2005 ("Office Action"), the Examiner objected to claim 1 and rejected claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otterness et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,654,831 B1 ("Otterness") in view of LeCrone et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,308,284 B1 ("LeCrone"), allowed claims 15-20, and indicated conditional allowance of claims 2-13, objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant's representative has correspondingly rewritten claim 1 to address the Examiner's objection with regard to missing language and to include the limitations of claim 13, and cancelled claim 13 in the above amendment. The above amendment should, according to the Examiner's statements, place all claims in condition for allowance. Applicant's representative notes that neither Otterness nor LeCrone teach, mention, or suggest a unified sequence number component included in a supervisor local data storage device that facilitates consistency between a distributed unified data set device group and a mirror of the distributed unified data set device group, and that claim 1, as amended to include the limitations of claim 13, is therefore not directed to subject matter made obvious by Otterness and LeCrone. Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 15-20 and the conditional allowance of claims 2-13.

In Applicant's representative's opinion, all of the claims remaining in the current application are clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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